

METIS ART

DOT
PAINTING

METIS BACKGROUND

A Nation of people in the Plains who were formed following contact between the First Nations and Europeans.

Most unions were created when the European travellers, transporting goods for the fur trade, married First Nations women

Metis means "free people".

Mothers: Cree, Ojibwe, Algonquin, Mi'kmaq

Fathers: French, Scottish, British, Irish

A Native man could marry a white woman and keep his rights

A Native woman would lose her rights when they married a white man

Some of these European travellers/traders would eventually move back home and leave their Metis children behind.



METIS BACKGROUND

During the 1860's, the government was acquiring land and planned to give the Metis land to the English

Louis Riel (politician and founder of province of Manitoba) led the Metis who formed their own government and tried to protect their land

An agreement was eventually made in 1870 – Manitoba Act

Manitoba Act confirmed Metis ownership of land they already owned and promised additional land for Metis children

Many promises were not kept, the government continued to give away Metis land, battles ensued, Riel was hanged



BEADWORK

The Métis were famous for their floral beadwork, and were often called the 'Flower Beadwork People'. The symmetric floral beadwork, often set against a black or dark blue background, was inspired by European floral designs.

Beadwork was added to jackets, bags, leggings, gloves, vests and pouches.

These items were traded throughout North America and Europe.

It was common for the Métis to decorate their saddles and other horse gear.



EMBROIDERY

The Métis were also well known for their floral embroidery, which was introduced to them by the Ursuline Nuns (from Europe) who taught the Métis girls the art of embroidery at Mission Schools.



CLOTHING

The clothing of the Métis people, like most aspects of their culture, was a combination of both Native and European styles. Their clothing was greatly inspired by the clothing of the French-Canadian fur traders (les coureurs des bois), as well as the Native clothing of the area.

The Métis women were in charge of making all the clothing for their families.

They either used tanned animal skins, such as deerskins or moose hide, or they used cloth that they had acquired through trade with the Europeans.



SASH

The Métis sash became the most recognizable part of Métis dress and a symbol of their people. The first sashes were used as back supports for the voyageurs in their canoes.

The hand-woven sashes were made of brightly coloured wool, mainly red and blue. Certain colours and patterns represented different families.

The fringed ends of the sashes were decorative, but were also used as an emergency sewing kit.

The fringes could be used as extra thread for sewing, if they needed to mend anything while traveling.

The 3 metre long sash was usually wrapped around the midsection of the body, either to keep the coat closed, or to hold belongings, like a hunting knife or fire bag.



OTHER CLOTHING

Métis moccasins were adapted from the moccasins of the Plains people.

The moccasins were made of animal hide (caribou or moose) and decorated with beadwork, fringe and fur (such a rabbit fur).

It was also common to decorate the moccasin with embroidery and beadwork, mainly floral designs.

The Métis made bags to carry supplies, such as gun powder and tobacco.

The Métis made a special type of bag that became known as an 'Octopus' pouch. It was named that because it appeared as though it had several legs hanging down. These bags were carried over the shoulder and were used to carry pipes, tobacco, flint, and steel.



MEANING OF COLOUR

Métis clothing was often elaborately decorated with bright colours. Different colours had different meanings:

- **Red:** represented the blood shed fighting for their rights
- **Blue:** represented the depth of the Métis spirit
- **Green:** represented the fertility of the Métis Nation
- **White** represented the connection to the earth and the creator
- **Yellow:** represented the prospects of future prosperity
- **Black:** represented the dark period of suppression



TASK:

1. Artist Research Handout in groups of 2-3
2. Metis Dot Painting



BEADWORK DOT PAINTING



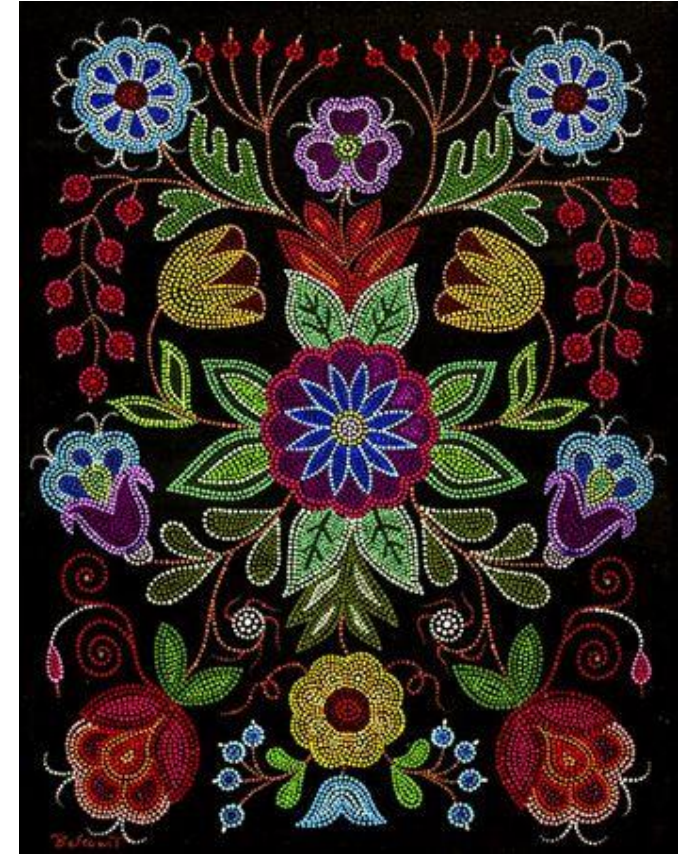
Goal:

Design, draw, and paint a floral design in the style of Metis artist Christi Belcourt.



SUCCESS CRITERIA

1. I will be able to design and plan a successful floral composition in rough
2. I will be able to transfer my approved design onto black canvas lightly
3. I will be able to use the beadwork dot art method to paint my design
4. I will use class time well, work efficiently, and take my time ensuring I am following the creative process and doing my best to ensure there is quality in my art
5. I will use materials properly and ensure I have cleaned up well



Foundations	<p>You have planned out an original or copy of a floral design successfully in rough</p> <p>Your floral design is in the style of Christi Belcourt</p> <p>You have transferred your approved design onto black canvas very lightly</p> <p>You have used class time well, worked efficiently and taken your time ensuring there is quality in your artwork</p> <p>You have used materials well and cleaned up after yourself every day</p> <p>You have met the deadline</p>	/10
Creation	<p>You have used the beadwork dot art method to paint your design</p> <p>Your dots are evenly spaced out</p> <p>Your dots are neat and consistent in size</p> <p>You have chosen colours with a purpose to enhance your design</p> <p>No puddles of paint or smudges are evident</p> <p>No pencil lines are evident</p> <p>Your painting is complete</p>	/30
Reflection	<p>You have completed the artist research handout in groups of 2-3</p> <p>Your answers are complete and thoughtful, with sufficient detail</p>	/10